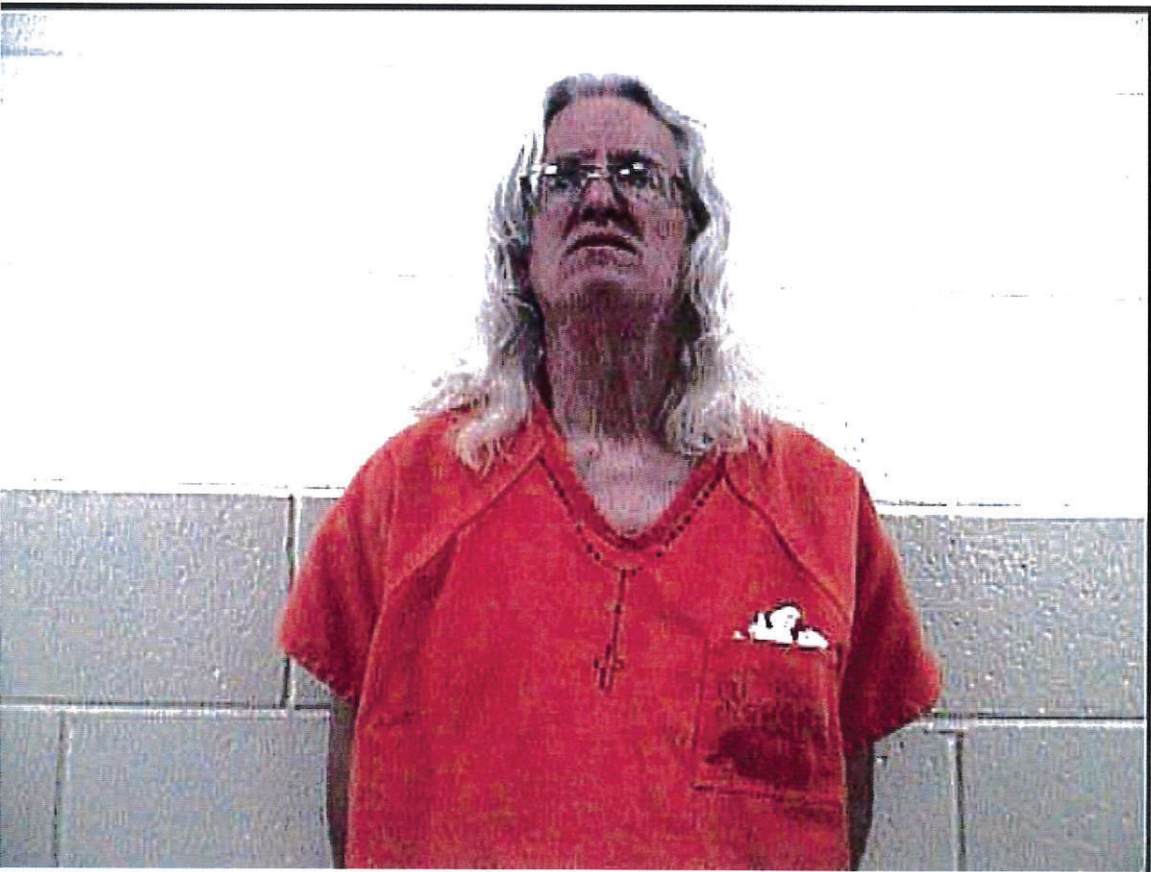


# SANTA FE NEW MEXICAN

[https://www.santafenewmexican.com/news/local\\_news/esp-ola-police-man-trying-to-frighten-prowler-fatally-shoots/article\\_629c4a52-a81f-54f5-9351-cdef40ac4db9.html](https://www.santafenewmexican.com/news/local_news/esp-ola-police-man-trying-to-frighten-prowler-fatally-shoots/article_629c4a52-a81f-54f5-9351-cdef40ac4db9.html)

## Española police: Man trying to frighten prowler fatally shoots woman

By Sami Edge | [sedge@sfnewmexican.com](mailto:sedge@sfnewmexican.com) May 5, 2018



Douglas D. Smith, courtesy Rio Arriba County jail

A 36-year-old Española woman was shot and killed early Saturday morning by a man who said he was trying to scare off a suspected prowler, police said.

Española police arrested Douglas Smith, 68, Saturday on a charge of second-degree murder, accusing him of shooting and killing the woman outside his home on the property of a motel he operates on North Riverside Drive.

**DEFENDANT'S  
EXHIBIT**

**B**

Smith was booked into the Rio Arriba County jail in Tierra Amarilla around noon Saturday, records show.

According to reports from the Española Police Department, Smith told officers he had been lying in bed when the alarm attached to his outdoor motion sensors went off. The alarm had gone off twice Friday night but those were false alarms. He had the system installed because he'd had problems with people sneaking into his yard before, he told police.

This time, he spotted someone hiding in the bushes near a camper trailer that had belonged to his late mother.

Shaken by the incident, the man began to search the area. That's when he found the woman's body.

Smith called police around 1:17 a.m., a report says, and summoned them to his property behind the Western Winds Motel on North Riverside Drive.

Smith put his gun down, and when police arrived, he was apprehended without any issue, the complaint says.

Smith's brother, Daniel Smith, said Douglas Smith owns the Western Winds Motel.

Daniel Smith, who also lives on the property in a mobile home, learned of the shooting Saturday morning when he saw crime scene tape around the lot. The brothers have had multiple burglary attempts in the past, Daniel Smith said. He doesn't agree with the murder charge his brother is facing.

"He was just protecting the property, pretty much," Daniel Smith said. "I guess you can't use deadly force, but he was just trying to scare them, as far as I understand."

Douglas Smith doesn't have a criminal history in New Mexico, according to an online search of state court records.

*Contact Sami Edge at 505-986-3055 or [sedge@sfnwmexican.com](mailto:sedge@sfnwmexican.com).*

### Sami Edge

Reporter

Sami Edge covers public-safety issues for Santa Fe New Mexican and follows developments in this year's fire season.